TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Policy/Procedure Guideline

SECTION 19: FIRE STATION CONTROL POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: : 07/17/92

PARAGRAPH:

1. PURPOSE:

To allow for the safe exit of emergency response vehicles from fire stations through the placement of proper traffic controls.

2. DESCRIPTION:

A. These steps are taken when installing traffic controls for fire station exits.

1. Receive notification from fire department or MCDOT inspector, of a new fire station and date it is to be in operation.
2. Design/Studies representative investigates area and draws a detailed condition diagram.
3. The location for 'Fire Truck' warning signs are determined and marked on the pavement as per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
4. The representative then determines the need for a "No Parking Zone" in the vicinity of the fire station. The location of the signing is then marked on the pavement.
5. Work orders are then written for the installation of the signing and sent to the sign crews.
6. The signing is then installed.
7. Installation is then verified

B. MCDOT will install Fire lane preemption systems, such as 3M opticom, at intersections at the request of the Fire Chief. the steps are as follows;

1. The Fire Chief preceives the problem and contacts MCDOT.
2. The Fire chief is informed of his options and how MCDOT will participate.
3. The Fire Department caontacts the provider and purchases the equipment.
4. The receiving unit is installed on the signal mast arm at MCDOT's expence.
5. The sending unit is installed on vehicles at the Fire Department's expence. The county will maintain the equipment and advise the fire Department of needed parts which the Fire Department must purchase. No "Hard Wire" controls are acceptable as a substitute for the opticom type system. MCDOT policy is to not install flashing yellow lights with warning signs.

An application and operation agreement is drawn up showing the location of crosswalk markings and the times of day the signs and guards are utilized. The school principal then signs the agreement and returns it to MCDOT.

3. EXHIBITS:

A. Exhibit "A" shows a Fire Truck warning sign, the signs are 36"X36" diamond shaped with a black boarder and silhouette of a fire truck. The educational plaque is used when requested by the Fire Chief in problem areas. This plaque is 24"X 30" with black boarder and "FIRE STATION" written out and placed under the standard "Fire Truck" symbol.

B. Exhibit "B" Table II-1-A Guide For Advance Warning Sign Placement Distance. Obtained from M.U.T.C.D. This helps to determine the distance warning signing is to be placed in advance of a hazard according to the speed limit of the

road.

4. BACKGROUND:

In the early 60's due to the growth in population, increased vehicular traffic and the mass convergence of people to retirement communities it was determined that the public interest well-served with the installation of `Fire Truck' warning signs.

It was also determined that parked cars near the fire station occasionally caused a problem for exiting emergency response vehicles. "No Parking" signing is used in some cases to alleviate this problem.

5. AUTHORIZATION:

Arizona revised statutes provide for a `no parking' zone for the area near the exit of a fire station to give vehicles an easy safe exit. No Parking signs are installed at the request of the Fire Captain at that station and provide for 25 feet on each side of the drive and 75 feet of each side of the drive on the opposite side of the road per A.R.S. 28-873.

Section 2c-1 Application of Warning Signs in the M.U.T.C.D. allows for the installation of fire truck warning signs.

6. REFERENCES:

NON-APPLICABLE

7. ATTACHMENTS:

NON-APPLICABLE

Approved: _____

Albert G. Letzkus, P.E.
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